

Appl Not yet assigned

Amdt dated February 20, 2004

Preliminary Amendment

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims

1-23 (Canceled)

24. (NEW) A multiwell cell growth apparatus comprising a multiwell filter plate and a feeding plate,
said multiwell filter plate having a multiplicity of wells extending from the plate, each of said wells comprising (a) a hollow member having two openings and extending from said plate and (b) a permeable barrier secured about said lower opening,

one or more first access holes for accessing a liquid in said feeding plate,
said feeding plate having one well to accommodate said multiplicity of wells of the filter plate.

25. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 wherein the filter plate has a multiplicity of second access holes through said filter plate, each of said second access holes being equal in number and positioned adjacent each of said wells of said filter plate.

26. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 wherein the permeable barrier is selected from the group consisting of a membrane, a glass mat, a glass fabric, a woven plastic sheet and a non-woven plastic sheet.

27. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 further comprising each of said wells of said filter plate have a shelf extending inwardly from a wall of the hollow member.

28. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 further comprising each of said wells of said filter plate have a shelf extending inwardly from a wall of the hollow member and wherein said shelf is formed by a recess in said wall.

29. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 wherein said feeding plate having an inclined support surface having one or more drainage areas from which liquid can be removed and one or more introduction areas into which liquid can be supplied,

said inclined support surface being inclined in a configuration to effect drainage of liquid from said one or more introduction areas to said one or more drainage areas,

and walls surrounding said inclined surface to enclose said inclined surface.

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30. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 wherein the feeding plate has an inclined support surface and said inclined support surface comprises a plurality of support surface subsections each inclined from said walls to a drainage path connected to said support surface subsections.

31. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 wherein the feeding includes a multiplicity of protrusions extending from said support surface in a direction substantially the same as a direction said walls extend from said support surface, said protrusions having a length which permits said walls to support said multiwell filter plate and to permit contact of said protrusions with each membrane of a well of said filter plate when said filter plate is removed from support by said first feeding plate.

32. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 wherein the feeding includes a multiplicity of protrusions extending from said support surface in a direction substantially the same as a direction said walls extend from said support surface, said protrusions having a length which permits said walls to support said multiwell filter plate and to permit contact of said protrusions with each membrane of a well of said filter plate when said filter plate is removed from support by said first feeding plate and wherein said protrusions are selected from the group consisting of posts, pyramids, rectangles, dimples and cones.

33. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 wherein said multiwell filter plate has one or more first access holes for introducing and removing a liquid into and from said feeding plate and further comprising a series of second access holes in the filter plate located adjacent the wells for recovering liquid from said feeding plate.

34. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 wherein the feeding plate contains one or more baffles.

35. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 wherein the feeding plate contains one or more baffles and the baffles have a shape selected from the group consisting of wavy elements, curvilinear elements, straight elements and crossed elements.

36. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth apparatus of claim 24 wherein the feeding plate contains two or more baffles.

37. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth test apparatus of claim 24 further comprising a lid for the filter plate.

38. (NEW) The multiwell cell growth test apparatus of claim 24 wherein the filter plate contains 96 wells.

39. (NEW) A multiwell cell growth apparatus comprising a multiwell filter plate and a feeding plate, said multiwell filter plate having a multiplicity of wells extending from the plate, each of said wells comprising (a) a hollow member having two openings and extending from said plate and (b) a microporous filter secured about said lower opening,

one or more first access holes formed in the filter plate for accessing a liquid in said feeding plate, said feeding plate having one well to accommodate said filter plate.

40. (NEW) A multiwell cell growth apparatus comprising a multiwell filter plate and a feeding plate,

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said multiwell filter plate having a multiplicity of wells extending from the plate, each of said wells comprising (a) a hollow member having two openings and extending from said plate and (b) a microporous filter secured about said lower opening,

one or more first access holes formed in the filter plate for accessing a liquid in said feeding plate,

a multiplicity of second access holes in the filter plate and arranged to be adjacent to and in the same number as the wells of the filter plate,

said feeding plate having one well to accommodate said filter plate.

41. (NEW) A multiwell cell growth apparatus comprising a multiwell filter plate and a feeding plate,

said multiwell filter plate having 96 wells extending from the plate, each of said wells comprising (a) a hollow member having two openings and extending from said plate and (b) a microporous filter secured about said lower opening,

one or more first access holes formed in the filter plate for accessing a liquid in said feeding plate,

96 second access holes in the filter plate and arranged to be adjacent to the wells of the filter plate,

said feeding plate having one well to accommodate said filter plate.